



National Assembly

ON SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE

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July 22, 2004

Representative Steny Hoyer
US House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Hoyer,

The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care is pleased to endorse the Full Service Community Schools Act, H. R. 4585.

Our Nation is currently facing a crisis in the health and well being of our youth. The number of children and adolescents suffering from obesity, Type II diabetes and other preventable conditions and diseases that profoundly impact their normal development is unacceptably high. As public and private sectors search for solutions to these health concerns, the nation's three-decade experience with school-based health centers reminds us that community health interventions in schools are sensible and effective.

The National Assembly on School Based Health Care, founded in 1995 has been at the forefront of the movement to provide school based health care to children, adolescents and families who would otherwise go without critical health care. By weaving interdisciplinary health education, promotion and treatment into the fabric of a school, school-based health centers have demonstrated that we can dramatically improve health care access for children and adolescents, and provide them with a more meaningful opportunity to learn and grow.

The Full-Service Community Schools Act supports this exact understanding – that our schools are the one common ground upon which we can build a stronger foundation for our Nation's most vulnerable children. The National Assembly looks forward to working with you to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

John Schlitt
Executive Director

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